

Message Text

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21

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCA-01 VO-03 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /055 W
----- 029834

O 060950Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4200

INFO US MISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 272

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4521

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, PFOR, MY

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: BOAT CASES AND UNHCR APPEAL FOR
FIRST ASYLUM AND RESETTLEMENT

REF: A. STATE 194041 (NOTAL) B. KUALA LUMPUR 4352 (NOTAL),
C. STATE 194693 (NOTAL), D. STATE 194698, E. GENEVA 6091 (NOTAL)
F. SINGAPORE 3713

1. EMBASSY HEARTENED BY RECENT MESSAGES RE OUR EFFORTS TO
BOLSTER UNHCR PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES HERE ON BOAT CASES.
SINGAPORE'S DESCRIPTION (REF F) OF UNHCR REGIONAL REP SAMPATKUMAR'S
HANDLING OF CAPE ERIMO CASE RAISES IN OUR MIND QUESTION
OF WHETHER HE IS BEING SWAMPED WITH PROBLEM BEYOND HIS SCOPE.
WE HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY CONCERNED THAT SAMPATKUMAR LACKS
THE ENERGY AND FORCEFULNESS TO PURSUE THE DIFFICULT TASK OF
PERSUADING GOVERNMENTS IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD TO RESPOND
TO THE PLIGHT OF THE REFUGEES. A LOCAL UNDP STAFF MEMBER
HAS DESCRIBED HIM AS INEFFECTIVE AND PRIMARILY CONCERNED
WITH STATUS. HE OCCUPIED HIMSELF ON ARRIVAL IN A
PROLONGED DISPUTE OVER WHETHER HE WAS ALLOWED TO FLY
FLAGS ON HIS AUTOMOBILE.

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2. WE DO NOT WISH TO BE UNFAIR, AND REGIONAL INFO
ADDRESSEES MAY WISH TO COMMENT ON THIS JUDGMENT. WE
BELIEVE A VIGOROUS, IMAGINATIVE PERSON IS REQUIRED IF
THERE IS TO BE ANY HOPE THAT THE UNHCR CAN FULFILL HIS
RESPONSIBILITIES HERE. IF THE OTHER POSTS AGREE THAT
SAMPATKUMAR DOES NOT FILL THE BILL, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH
TO CONSIDER WHETHER WE SHOULD TRY TO GET HIM REPLACED,
OR IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, URGE UNHCR TO SEND
ENERGETIC ABLE PERSON TO BACK HIM UP.

3. WE NOW HAVE APPROXIMATELY 350 REFUGEES.
UNDERHILL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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